

On the Horizon: The 2015 White House Conference on Aging - Reprinted from the White House Blog

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Today at the White House, I was delighted to host a roundtable discussion with leaders from across the aging community who came together to discuss the White House Conference on Aging, which will take place in 2015 – the 50th anniversary of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act, as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security.

The 2015 White House Conference on Aging is an opportunity to look ahead to the issues that will help shape the landscape for older Americans for the next decade. As we listen to aging leaders and older Americans, some of the common themes we hear include the following:

- **Retirement security is a vitally important issue.** Financial security in retirement provides essential peace of mind for older Americans, but requires attention during our working lives to ensure that we are well prepared for retirement.
- **Long-term services and supports remain a priority.** Older Americans overwhelmingly prefer to remain independent in the community as they age. They need supports to do so, including a caregiving network and well-supported workforce.
- **Healthy aging will be all the more important as baby boomers age.** As medical advances progress, the opportunities for older Americans to maintain their health and vitality should progress as well.
- **Seniors, particularly the oldest older Americans, can be vulnerable to financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect.** The Elder Justice Act was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act, and we need to realize its vision of protecting seniors from scam artists and others seeking to take advantage of them.

We are delighted to announce that Nora Super will be leading this effort as the newly named Executive Director of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. She brings both substantive expertise on the issues and the experience to help maximize our outreach and engagement with older Americans across the country. We also will launch WhiteHouseConferenceOnAging.gov as the official site for the conference this summer.

We intend to use the year ahead to be as creative as possible about using new technology, agencies' regional offices, partners, and other strategies to engage directly with older Americans and stakeholders on these issues. We are looking forward not only to the Conference, but to a year of engagement and dialogue about older Americans' issues and the opportunity to celebrate all that older Americans continue to contribute to our country.

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